

# **VOICER** *SOCIALIST*

## **AMBULANCE CREWS**

### **FIGHT FOR NHS**



### **THIS ISSUE.**

- ◆ Car Workers vote for action.
- ◆ Zamora To Visit London. (see back page)
- ◆ Pensioners' Campaign.
- ◆ Human Rights in Colombia.
- ◆ Stalin-Hitler Pact

**A**mbulance crews are determined and confident that they can win their fight for a decent pay rise.

The latest reports show that one third of the normal crews are off the road. In London, which is the worst hit, only half the normal crews are working weekends. Now officers and control assistants are joining the 17,000 ambulance men in an overtime ban.

The ambulance men and women are receiving much public support. Even Tory backbenchers are urging Kenneth Clarke, the Health Secretary to improve the offer to the going rate of 9%.

Socialist Voice spoke to a shop steward at a station in the North West Regional Health

Authority area:

"When we accepted to go on a salaried structure in 1986 there was a verbal agreement to peg our wages to that of the firemen. Now to get level we need at least an 11% rise.

"Bills keep rising. Just say we settled for only the 6.5% that the Department of Health are offering. Do I say to the man from the electricity board, when he comes to cut off the 'juice', 'sorry mate but I'm an ambulance man' and expect that he'll keep me connected?"

"At the moment it's very quiet; the crunch will come when there are absences because of sickness; that's when the action will begin to bite".

In the North West the critical state of the health service has been high-lighted by the situation in Salford, where nurses have complained to the

authority that they are in breach of their professional code of practice due to the cuts. In the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital there is a shortage of 20 nurses and now there is a real danger of more ward closures.

A further £305 million needs to be cut this year despite cuts of £200 million last year, and the Health Authority has been told another £2.25 million has to be cut next year.

Health Authority member Professor David Anderson said, "This illustrates that the lemon has been squeezed dry. If ... £1/2 million is not made available Salford is once again on the very edge of a major crisis".

## TROTSKYIST LEADERSHIP and the POLITICAL REVOLUTION:

By Bill Hunter 50p

A criticism of Ernest Mandel's book  
Beyond Perestroika. The future of  
Gorbachev's USSR?

"The most important task for revolutionary leaders is not to speculate about developments in the bureaucracy...but to thoroughly study the mass movements that develop, seek ways of intervening and developing revolutionary leadership and the slogans and tactics of struggle which can assist all independent movements or the masses."

"The method of Mandel covers up the crisis of the bureaucracy and softens the firmness of the struggle against it. A victorious political revolution will only be realised with a leadership that is educated and hardened in the consciousness of the necessity of complete independence of workers' organisation; with its theory, programme and practice completely freed of any illusions of bureaucratic self-reform."-This is the conclusion of the pamphlet.

The pamphlet takes a firm stand in support of the twin Trotskyist principles of independence and internationalism of the working class in the struggle, to give leadership to the developing political revolution in Eastern Europe, China and the USSR.

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# SOCIALIST VOICE

The pensioner's interview in this month's Socialist Voice raises the question of how old people in the Europe of the 1990's can achieve a decent life.

This is a question to which millions of people are seeking an answer.

Already they have experienced the destruction of jobs on a massive scale: the destruction of the shipbuilding industry; the closure of pit after pit; vast cut backs in steel making. It is a European wide phenomena. Unemployment in Europe is now as bad as, if not, worse than in the 1930's and the process is set to accelerate. Mergers, rationalisations, bankruptcies are happening all the time and at an increasing rate. Along with this there is a concerted attack by the employers on the strengths and gains of the European working class in every country. The NHS, unemployment benefits, state education are under the severest attack in their history. For some their conditions and standard of living are worse than before the war. Homelessness, throughout Europe, is at record levels.

What is coming up in Europe, what has already started, is a massive and definitive change to the history of Europe. The single European market means the complete opening up of Europe to the race for domination by the multi-nationals and to hell with workers rights, the sick, the elderly, the unemployed. If we can draw an analogy, we are seeing the Latin Americanisation of Europe. This is why meant when Thatcher described the European Charter as 'creeping socialism', Jacques Delors, the EC president, could hardly contain his laughter: "doesn't she realise the charter is only words, it doesn't mean anything, it is only for propaganda".

This is the reality of Europe 1990. But this is not what was discussed at the Labour Party Conference in Brighton. What did the

conference say, concretely, about the Poll Tax, re-nationalisation, unemployment or the control of the speculators who rule the money exchange markets? Nothing! No interest was shown in defending the NHS.

The Labour Party talks a different language. They are the super-Europeans, they are the champions of the multi-nationals. They criticise Thatcher only for her tardiness and narrow minded stupidity over, for example, monetary union, but, just in case the working class is not fooled by their rhetoric, they will keep the anti-trade union laws.

But what is shocking is the paralysis of the left. Here too the development of Europe 1990's style is the end of an era. It is the end of the era of fudge and compromise and it is showing that the institutionalised left were tied more than most suspected to the old strengths of British capitalism. It comes to something when the 'left' leader of the biggest union in Britain, Ron Todd can call off a strike with a shrug of his shoulders when his union is derecognised in Tilbury docks.

## SOCIALISM ON THE AGENDA

All the old relations are breaking up. The struggle in Europe is reaching a new level: either the barbarism of the multi-nationals or socialism.

If the end of the Argentine dictatorship meant the beginning of the Argentine and Latin American revolution and Gorbachev unwittingly signaled the tremendous upheaval of the political revolution in Eastern Europe and China then the processes of 1992 signals the beginning of the European revolution. That is, sooner or later Europe itself will become convulsed with revolutionary movements. 1990 places that firmly on the agenda.

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# Vauxhall Car Workers Vote For Action



John Owen interviewed an Ellesmere Port Vauxhall car worker, CR, on the vote for action by car workers and on the conditions in the car factories in Britain and Europe.

*Vauxhall workers join Nurses in a demonstration against Health cuts in the NHS last year*

SV: "How large was the support for the strike action in the Transport Union?"

CR: "It was 87% in favour, for limited action. The figures were 1,724 for and 380 against. As far as I know the votes, which were taken at mass meetings, were carried overwhelmingly, in the AEU and presumably in the EETPU. The rest of the unions in Ellesmere Port and Luton appear to have had meetings, taken a vote and walked straight out.

"One reason the strike support is solid is the threat of Japanese style working conditions. The management have said that by 1992-3 they expect the workforce to be 1,700 less and producing ten cars an hour more. The conditions set in the Nissan factory in Wearside has created pressure on the rest of us."

SV: "What is the union demanding?"

CR: "The major demands are for a £25 increase, for all, and a 35 hour working week. So far the company has offered a flat rate increase of £13 plus £3, which would, essentially, be repaid by halving the productivity bonus.

"They have given a 'flat no' on the reduction in hours demand. Some minor improvements have been made on the secondary issues. After the claim was initially lodged

the company offered, what they say is, just a 9.1% pay increase. But the offer is based upon workers accepting a document they call "Meeting The Challenge". The document contains proposals for fundamental changes in work practice; which has become commonly known as Japanese working methods."

SV: "What do these practices and conditions mean?"

CR: "We have not heard a great deal from our negotiators. It is a little complicated because there has been parallel talks going on for about five or six weeks over a new site agreement.

"General Motors and probably most of the car companies make each plant bid against one another for any work which is available, for example in new components, engines etc, and they all have to submit claims."

SV: "To see who can be the most competitive?"

CR: "Yes. It is another way of thrusting worker against worker and plant against plant all over Europe.

"The local management came to the unions at Ellesmere Port a couple of months ago and said there was a possibility of building a range of engines called the V6 engine, which would provide about 400 jobs. Our plant and

one plant in West Germany were possible contenders, although it must be said that they are a proper engine plant.

"In order to have any chance they said we had to negotiate an entirely separate agreement and we had to do away with demarcation, 'spheres of influence' and many other conditions. These conditions, which have been built up over a long period of time, the company says, lead to inflexibility and unprofitability.

"This is what the company claims but we do not have a full picture. In the Antwerp plant, in Belgium, a six day working week was introduced and agreed by the workforce - putting the rest of European car workers under pressure. In Spain a three shift and weekend shift system in the Zaragoza car plant has been introduced."

SV: "How do British car workers compare with the European?"

CR: "The Automotor Group produced a paper which compared the wage rates per hour of all the major companies in Europe, Japan and the United States; except for Spain and Portugal we have the lowest wage rates. Their figure included the overall wage cost including pensions and benefits.

"We are something like £5.00 per hour behind West Germany."

# THE STRUGGLE OF

Pensioners are increasingly militant as they are finding it harder, because of rising costs, to eat, keep warm and to travel. Socialist Voice talked to John Kelley (picture below) about pensioners' lives in Thatcher's Britain.

SV: "How badly are pensioners doing under this government?"

JK: "This year we got a rise of £2.45 a week for a single pensioner and £3.70 for a married couple. That is an increase of 5.9% - a cut in real terms. A single pensioner is receiving £43.60 but should (by the old agreement that Thatcher destroyed, which was based on inflation and average earnings) be receiving £54.72. A married couple on £69.80 should, by the same rule, be receiving £87.52.

"Nothing has changed. A few years ago we got a 'very big increase': 40p for a single pensioner and 60p for a married couple!

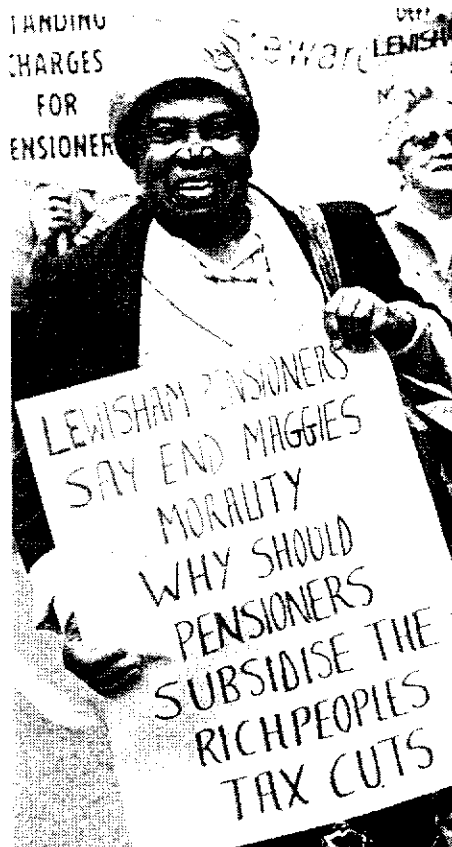
"Even the way pension payments were changed, because of the change from Social Security to Income Support, caused us to lose three weeks' money. "Many pensioners are now paying more in rates and generally paying more in bills because of the increased costs caused by privatisation of gas, electricity and transport.

"My water rates have gone from £63 a year, paid as part of the rent, to £149 just for water rates. The water rates do not qualify in rent rebates. The pensioners have to find that money from somewhere else with the continual rise in food on top of all that.

"Since the second world war we have had to constantly fight, and today even more, for those things we need. I never thought then I would be doing exactly the same thing 50 years later - that is fighting a dictatorship. This government is responsible for the way we live."



John Kelley belongs to the Wythenshawe Pensioners Association which hold a meeting on the first Friday every month at The Social Club on Brownly Road. John says: "We are there to discuss the problems of pensioners."



SV: "Can you give any other examples of the way pensioners are treated?"

JK: "One of the most niggling questions is the concessionary fares. In Manchester we can travel for 14p but in some towns we can travel free. But whenever pensioners go out of their area they have to pay normal fares. If a London pensioner came to visit me he would have to pay £1.90 to travel to my house in Manchester. The same length of journey in London would cost him nothing.

"What we want is a national concessionary fare - a recognised bus pass that could be used in any town in the country.

"In the last budget pensioners over the age of 75 were told they would be receiving £2.00 for a single person and £3.50 for a married couple in October as an extra payment. When they heard the news pensioners thanked me for our efforts in helping to get 'his rise. But later we found that it was to be 'means' tested.

"I had to tell the same pensioners that if they were not on Income Support they would not be getting that money. Some of them were in tears and asked why it should happen. To me this is a disgrace. Most people over 75 are living on the bare pension.

"It seems the Government has no respect for the pensioners who have worked all their lives.

"The idea of this government is to freeze out the national pension and make everybody pay for their own pension. This change would mean even young people will suffer.

"One of the worst things to happen to all people is the deterioration in the Health Service. In the old days a man was employed by the doctor to go round the houses every week to collect sixpence. He was like a rent collector for health!

"I do not want to go back to those days.

"It is the same with the water. Bailiffs will be sent round to those that cannot pay and tell families: 'sell that television, sell that washing machine'.

"Irrespective of your politics, people should come first!

"Of course some people do. Since 3rd October pensioners can earn as much as they like without it affecting their pension. This means of course that Mrs. Thatcher and all those in the House of Lords can now draw their pensions.

Do they need the money?"

SV: "What support are you getting for your charter?"

JK: "It is mostly from the trade unions. They helped to found the pensioners movement and they are also one of the biggest contributors to the pensioners magazine - "Grey Power". We have two editions: one is a national magazine and the other is for the North-West of England. It started off by a man typing out stories on a sheet and going round on a bicycle. Now we are selling 15,000 every quarter."

SV: "How much support will you get for the demonstration?"

JK: "There was a demonstration in September last year; it was well supported with over 3,000 pensioners from practically every town in England. On the 10th October we are holding a demonstration on the European issues. We are hoping not only for pensioners but all trade unionists to support us in the our fight."

All trade unionists have a responsibility to take up the struggle for the pensioner's charter, part of which is printed below, inside their own unions.

The immediate step is the fullest support for the national demonstration in Manchester on the 10th October.

# PENSIONERS

## PENSIONERS

### DEMONSTRATION

**TUESDAY 10TH OCTOBER**

**A SOCIAL CHARTER FOR EUROPE!  
A PENSIONERS' CHARTER FOR BRITAIN!**

**MARCH FROM ALBERT SQUARE 12 NOON  
RALLY: MANCHESTER TOWN HALL 1.30PM**

### A CHARTER FOR BRITISH PENSIONERS

The following are some of the points of the Charter.

- \* An adequate universal state retirement pension of not less than one-half of average gross earnings for a married couple and one-third for a single person.
- \* A free and adequate system of health care provision available to all retired people, regardless of their levels of income.
- \* A range of facilities to be available to pensioners including:  
National freefare scheme for public transport
- \* Abolition of standing charges on gas, water and electricity
- \* Free television licences for pensioners.

# CHIPS FOR FERRANTI

— PETER WINDELER —

Readers of Socialist Voice may recall in our January issue we highlighted the plague of scandals rocking the financial world from Japan to Yugoslavia. In recent weeks another scandal has broken - this time nearer to home. Ferranti International Signal has revealed that the company it merged with in 1987, International Signal And Control (ISC), conned it out of £150 million. This news has shocked the City of London and left egg on the face of the Ministry of Defence.

Now Ferranti may not be able to pay its 26,000 workers. The firm needs overdrafts of up to £300 million to carry on and its banks, as can be imagined, want all their money back, Now!

ISC was the creation of James Guerin and had close ties with the Pentagon and the US intelligence community. Its business has involved supplying reactionary forces throughout the world with weapons such as the infamous cluster bomb. In fact, Bobby Ray Inman, the former deputy director of the CIA between 1981 and 1982, was on its board of directors.

Ferranti came into the ill-judged merger as a result of Thatcher's policy of opening up the contracts of the MOD to competition. Ferranti, which developed its expertise in radar during the last war, could always rely on government contracts. But recently as a result of the change in policy, contracts were lost to Dowty, the Anglo-French company Sema and the Swedish Bofors group. ISC, with its shady contacts and access to lucrative US contracts, seemed to promise to fill the gap in work that was being lost.

Another factor was the recent takeover of Royal Ordnance by British Aerospace. This prompted Ferranti to attempt to make itself 'an alternative force' supplying weapons as well as the rest of the paraphernalia of war.

To survive Ferranti will have to merge with a larger firm or sell off its highly profitable avionics and computer businesses to raise the cash. The high level of borrowing means that it has to find £30 million to pay interest charges each year. At the same time its profits have been deteriorating. Whichever avenue Ferranti decides upon, the losers will be the workers in its factories and their families.

# SRI LANKA STOP THE KILLINGS

On Wednesday 13th September people from different parts of the U.K. joined together in a lively demonstration outside the Sri Lankan High Commission in London.

This action had been called to demonstrate against the escalation of the torture, disappearances and killings in Sri Lanka. Protesters held placards on which photographs of victims were placed together with details of the type of horrific torture they had suffered in their last days of life. Some of the photographs showed charred bodies that had been burned with tyres. Some of them were of people who had "disappeared".

The demonstrators were chanting loudly and angrily:-

"Stop the Sri Lankan Army killing Sinhala people!"

"Stop the Indian Army killing Tamil people!"

There was a large banner which proclaimed - "Action Against State Terrorism in Sri Lanka". There was also a banner written in Tamil which stated - "Sinhala and Tamils are oppressed by the regime in Sri Lanka".

Not surprisingly the Sri Lankan High Commission officials requested the police to move the demonstrators on. The demonstrators refused to move, stating firmly that they had come to expose the atrocities and to let the Sri Lankan Government know that people in the UK are outraged and horrified about the actions of the military forces on the island. A spokesperson for the protesters said: "This action we have taken is the first of many protests and actions to expose the bloodshed of oppressed peoples in Sri Lanka."

There was also a similar protest the previous day by a group who had travelled to London from Rotherham.

One protester told an Embassy staff official who was laughing at the demonstration: "If you find these photographs amusing, then you confirm the reports we hear about your Government's obsession with torture."

When questioned by a reporter as to what he meant, the protesters said: "These photographs speak for themselves. Part of our work in the UK is to distribute them as widely as possible."

From a statement by the Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign

For further details contact - Mr. Jenkins on 01 691 1493

## MANCHESTER MARTYRS MARCH

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26TH  
PARADE AND RALLY  
ASSEMBLE: 12.30 PM  
LONGSIGHT MARKET  
DICKENSON ROAD  
MANCHESTER

## Britain's Dirty War

Reports that the names of Republicans, which are held on police files north and south of the Irish border, are being passed to the loyalist terrorists by the security forces in northern Ireland, show that the police and army methods are moving closer to the methods employed by Latin American dictatorships than to the image of British Democracy presented by most parliamentarians.

According to the Independent on the 25th September evidence of leaks is growing daily. Some of the names being passed on are members of Sein Fein, others are members of such groups as anti-extradition lobbies.

Information is being passed to, what in Latin America would be called, death squads operating south of the border as well as north.

It means that anyone who protests and who is on police files could end up with their name and details in the hands of the para-militaries.

## ECONOMIC TERRORISM

**Unemployment, shortages of housing and the high cost of living in the Republic of Ireland are creating a new upsurge in emmigration.**

**The Economist of 16th September in an article on East Germany compared the situation of the two countries: "Counting all the East Germans who escaped through Hungary this week, the total number likely to enter West Germany this year, legally or border-busting, is proportionately smaller than the number of people who abandoned the Republic of Ireland last year."**

## ON THE BUSES

In the inner city of Liverpool new bus companies are appearing every week. In the short term there are certain benefits. The intense competition is providing cheap, fast and frequent services.

But already there are dangers. Buses tear past one another competing for first place at the bus stops with the largest queues, putting drivers, passengers and pedestrians at risk. Old corporation buses are painted to give the

impression of being in a good state of repair but many are not. One story being told in Liverpool is of a driver who stopped his bus three or four times on one journey to repair the wind screen wipers which kept falling below the window.

In the long term the bus company which makes the biggest cuts and takes the biggest risks will drive the others off the road. This will lead to a more expensive, more dangerous and less efficient service.

# HOUSING FOR ALL

The recent report of the Association of Community Health Councils declares that, nationally, there are more than 100,000 households officially classified as homeless. On some estimates 11,000 people are living on the streets of London.



Socialist Voice talked to Patrick Cornwell a spokesperson for CHAR (which is a campaign fighting for housing for single people) about their campaign for housing for all

SV : "How are young people being affected?"

PC: "The Tories say go and find work where it is, but changes in housing provision and financial support make it virtually impossible to do so for young people under the age of 25 and particularly under the age of 18. Today a young person living on their own in a flat would have very little money left out of paying the rent and rates. Benefit changes have attacked the homeless because they reduce income maintenance levels and cut back on one off payments. These payments enabled people to set up homes and escape from bad private accommodation by moving to unfurnished council flats and furnishing the flats themselves. Most people can no longer do that."

SV: "What should be done about the problem?"

"We believe that local authorities have a responsibility to all homeless people: those in temporary slum conditions like hostels, night shelters or sleeping rough on the street or in doss houses.

"Anybody is homeless who does not have a home or a home without fear of violence and a home in which they can live with the sort of people they would expect to live with. It is a broad definition of homelessness. We would include all those that are termed the 'hidden homeless' such as a women who fears violence or a young person who has left home or the Asian family who suffers con-

stant attack.

"They have a right to permanent council homes but are finding such provision increasingly difficult to maintain.

"The figures hide the real number of homeless. The people who get counted are the people the government says the Local Authorities have a responsibility for - nobody else. The Government attempts to suppress those figures in the way it has done with the unemployment figures. In those areas where there has been drastic rises in figures the Government has applied pressure to Local Authorities to count the homeless in different ways in order to lower the figures.

"There is a whole series of changes to benefits which represent an attack on young people, in particular in regard to their housing needs. Some who are homeless have the most extreme form of housing need.

A greater number of local authorities are recognising they have a responsibility to single homeless as well as the legal responsibility to homeless families.

Yet most local authorities do not make provision for single homeless people because they are not a priority and the Authority is not obliged to. Most Local Authorities will therefore claim they do not exist."

SV: "Can you give an example of a recent housing need?"

PC: "In recent research for Channel Four we discovered the case of a young lad of 18 who had run away from home because of the break down of relations with his parents. He was sleeping in a shed in the grounds of a school. When the police turfed him out, he slept in the changing rooms of a football pitch for several months. This was a case in

Tameside and there is no provision for such people.

"Another case is a women who became homeless in Rochdale. Her friends could not help and Rochdale does not have any emergency accommodation for single homeless women. She ended up in Manchester and lost her job through the problems of travelling. Within a short period of time she was drinking heavily in the open. A classic illustration of what happens if local authorities do not meet problems as they arise."

SV: "What is the aim of CHAR?"

PC: "CHAR fights for the understanding that homeless people are people without homes! Homeless people may have other problems like the rest of us but if you are homeless the first thing is you have to get a home.

"The government fosters the idea of special needs as a solution to the problem. We hold the opposite view. We need to take homelessness away from charity or compassion, do gooders or voluntary workers. Fifteen years ago some good intentioned people were setting up a night shelter in a building condemned as unfit to be used as a school. They set up dormitories with a bucket at the end of the hall as a toilet. It was appalling and it got worse. They were doing it as best they could and on a shoe string.

"There has to be a structural solution to homelessness as there has to be a structural solution to the issues of poverty in the third world, where in fact there are a lot of parallels."

# COLOMBIA

## PEASANTS & WORKERS AGAINST THE



The Socialist Voice interview with an eye witness account of Columbian repression is a graphic account of the sufferings of political prisoners and what it means to be a relative of the disappeared.

SV: "Are there many disappeared in Colombia?"

KB: "Yes, and the numbers are increasing. From the start of 1988 to June of this year more than 250 disappeared after detention. These are verified cases. I learnt that the families of the disappeared also suffer greatly.

"For example, I met a seventy five year old woman living in a dreadful house up on a hill in a shanty town, the worst place I have seen in my life. She had five grandsons to look after because her son had died under torture two years previously. The youngest child, a four year old, has polio. He cannot walk or talk, he just lies on the bed all day and the older ones go out to beg or steal or do whatever they can to raise money and she stays at home with him.

"The people I met said that they would rather know their relatives were dead than carry on not knowing whether they were dead or being tortured.

One family in Quito, the capital, for example, have a demonstration in the main square, the Plaza de Independence, every Wednesday outside the presidential palace. It is a beautiful square with trees and flower beds, a lovely palace. They are a nice middle class family with no political involvement. Two years ago their two sons, a twelve year old and a fifteen year old, went to the airport to see a friend off. There was a check by the

police on identity cards which the sons had forgotten. They were arrested, and they have never been seen since.

"The parents have been everywhere, they have been to the police, to the army and have taken out writs. They have got nowhere. So they have a demonstration with placards and petitions."

SV: "Did you visit any prisons?"

KB: "In Cali in southern Colombia, I went with a lawyer to visit the female prison which has the lovely name of Buen Pastor - the good shepherd. The men's prison is called Villahermosa - pretty villa. From the outside there are flower beds, palm trees and white washed walls.

"The political prisoners were allowed to talk with us. They were very cheerful. Most of them were M19 guerrillas - well educated and informed. Ten of the fifteen had been tortured. One of their lawyers is now exiled in London because he received death threats. The prisoners were remarkable people - full of life.

"The women prison contained three political cases. One of them was a young Indian girl of 18 from the mountains. She had become involved with an Indian Guerrilla group and was arrested. She had only been there a few weeks and she was totally befuddled as to what she was doing there away from her people and society. Another woman

had been arrested for carrying a firearm and sentenced to ten years in jail but her family were so poor and so far away that there was no way her children could visit her. She kept on saying, "my children, my children". But she was very brave, she only hoped some day she could see her children again. The third woman had a son who was a guerilla. He heard the military coming and left the house quickly but he had left a pistol behind. The military came in, found the pistol and arrested the mother and sentenced her to five years. She is having a nervous breakdown, but there was no money for a specialist."

SV: "Are trade unionists also under attack?"

KB: "Definitely The Government says there are 123 right wing death squads in Colombia. Some are run by the drug barons. Off duty soldiers are often involved. Two hundred trade unionists have been killed in the last few years. Over 500 teachers have received death threats. Many of whom in the rural areas are teaching peasants about their land rights and human rights. Fifteen have been killed this year and a lot are in hiding or have left the country.

"In Medellin last April, a teaching sister, a nun who was teaching a class of ten year olds, was shot in front of the class with sub-machine guns by a death squad because, they said, she was a subversive."



# JAILED MINERS FREED

The strike of 70,000 Peruvian miners and the international campaign achieved the release of their leaders and some concessions including a small pay increase. Enrique Mores was one of those released, Mores is one of the national defence secretaries of the Peruvian NUM and is also a leader of our section in Peru, the Socialist Workers Party.

British miners responded to the strike. The Lancashire area committee of the National Union of Mineworkers donated £100 towards the struggle of the Peruvian miners. This amount is almost a years wage for the miners. British miners also expressed interest in setting up direct links between miners here and in Peru.

Hopefully this support will grow because the miners are still at great risk. Many of the mines are in emergency zones where the army does as it pleases. The power of the army to restrict the movement of people, stop meetings and enter homes remains. The number of disappeared also remains.



*Enrique Mores, one of the released NUM leaders and a leader of the PST, the Peruvian Section of the IWL(FI) in Peru.*

## EDITORIAL NOTE

Socialist Voice thanks the Peru Support Group, which provided us with information concerning the human rights struggle and the miners strike in Peru. The address of the PSG is Latin America House, Priory House, Kingsgate Place, London NW6.

bia, 63 people were massacred last year. The army were involved and helped the death squads. One possible reason is that the drug interests are trying to move peasants out in order to take over the land."

SV: "What can British trade unionists do?"

KB: "Amnesty International is asking people to write letters demanding the release of political prisoners. If trade union branches write it can be very important.

"One example I can give of letter writing concerns a priest who contacted Amnesty International and asked for protection. One morning he had a call from the local Colonel, who said: *"The big General from the capital is coming to see you."* The General flew to the area and met the priest. He said: *"Who are you?"* . *"I'm just a village priest"* the priest replied. *"No you must be a very influential man, I have had 800 letters this week from all over the world appealing for protection for you."* The General turned to the Colonel and said: *"Make sure you look after this man."* The priest had an armed guard after that to protect him. Simple letter writing can work.

"If we can get the printers' union or the miners' union or the churches to send letters it counts. You may never get a reply but if unions in Denmark or Canada write as well it has an effect.

"The hierarchy of the Catholic church in those countries is right wing but the grass roots priests are impressive especially in the shanty towns. I developed a respect for them *"By thy fruits you shall know them."*

SV: "How are people fighting back?"

KB: "A great march of several thousand teachers from all over the country took place in Bogota. It was called, in the school holidays, against repression and they demanded an increase in pay and conditions. The march was not repressed.

"A human rights conference was organised to protest the killings, which was also held in Bogota in August. In the morning peasants, workers and Indians were given ten minutes each. Many had traveled for days to get there. Some were under death threats but they were willing to stand up and denounce the killers. Some were simple peasants but very brave people."

SV: "What is happening over the struggle against drugs?"

KB: "The situation exploded in Bogota after I left. The present push against the drugs barons may make the situation better or worse. Many that I spoke to do not want the American military presence. They are alarmed that it is America getting its foot in the door. Several Guerrilla wars are going on and the drugs provide an excuse for Americans to attack the Guerrillas.

"They are even advising on the use of body guards but Colombians must be the world experts on body guards. It is big business!

"The greatest help is not arms or a gift of millions of dollars but cancelling the international debt.

In 1988, there was an average 11 political killings and one disappearance every day .

"In Segovia, a northern village in Colom-

# DOWN WITH THE AMNESTY



Menem, the Argentine President has now pardoned the military leaders involved in the bloody dictatorship. This cynical and unfeeling act will mean that the struggle in Argentina becomes more tense. At a stroke Menem has increased the hatred of most of the people that elected him and propelled the break up of the Peronist Party. We reprint part of the Editorial from *Solidaridad Socialista*, the paper of our party, the MAS in Argentina. This was written before the pardon but shows the feeling against the Amnesty and the mass movement that faces Menem.

We thank all those in Britain who signed our petition against the Amnesty. We did not meet one person who refused to sign it, whether from Human Rights groups or trade unions. It shows even in Britain a big international campaign can be launched against the Amnesty.

Socialist Voice calls upon British workers to show their international traditions in support of the developing Argentine revolution - Amnesty or no Amnesty.

"The march of 8th September against the Amnesty was a triumph for the workers and the people. It was the largest demonstration against the "Genocidists", comparable only to those of Easter Week, 1987 when the whole country mobilised against the military threat.

In Buenos Aires a human tide stretched from one side of the street to the other. At the same time fifty other marches occurred throughout the country demanding NO! NO!

Hundreds of thousands of workers, students, professional people, families of the disappeared and their supporters showed themselves to be the decisive force in the struggle against the torturers and assassins on the night of the 8th September.

It is only this movement, by unity in action, which can guarantee the success of the demands against the old military. The MAS has always organised to achieve this unity of action. The triumph of the 8th was a triumph of the politics of the MAS; this was reflected in the size and energy of its columns on the march.

The 8th was also a victory for the workers and people who delivered a No to Menem.

Thousands of Peronists marched shouting: "*He that doesn't protest is a liberal.*" Meaning they are against the Menem alliance. Equally the Radicals sing out against Radical leaders and against the plan of employers who are in the Menem Government. The Intransigent Party militants shouted against the surrender of the Malvinas to Thatcher.

On the 8th the people said, in essence, to the Government of Menem, sixty days after his election, the workers and the people do not accept his surrender to imperialism and

the big capitalists and are searching for an alternative.

In this sense the 8th was the most advanced point of the struggle of workers' and peoples' movement. Those that are mobilising against the prices also joined the march; nearly one million teachers; railway workers and the national and local Government employees.

The Government denounced the strikes. By attacking the strikers Menem supports Rapanelli who said: "*The cry for economic warfare is the cry for stability, who dies, dies.*"

It is certain that he will insist on his reactionary plan, sacrificing not only the workers but also the national property for the benefit of the IMF and the captains of industry.

But just like the fight for decent wages, the march of the 8th shook the Government to its foundations. It demonstrated that Menem, at each turn, is becoming weaker and more isolated.

The base of Peronism is breaking into fragments and a channel to fight the Government and its treachery is opening up.

Power is there for the winning, the march opened up great possibilities. The MAS calls to deepen the unity for the struggle against wages, against the economic plan and for a plebiscite, against the Amnesty to defeat the Government.

# WORKERS DEMAND HEALTH AND WORK

MARTIN RALPH

The new movements of workers in America show that the giant is moving and all the best traditions of the militant working class begin to revive with it. America is not only the land of the red, white and blue but it is also one of the most proletarian nations on earth.

The recent disputes, which involved the Eastern Airline workers, the miners and the telephone workers, show that those from different backgrounds are now facing the same type of struggles.

One common demand is: no increased payment from workers for health cover. The cost of private health cover has risen dramatically. The employers do not want to pay the extra amounts involved, but for workers such payments would mean an effective cut in their pay.



## USA: POLITICAL PRISONERS

The Bush administration is using the old methods of the political frame-up trial to silence critics of the U.S.A.'s overseas activities like supporting the Contras in Central America and the invasion of Grenada.

This is a sign of the concern that is being felt within U.S. ruling circles to the growing resistance by the American working class to the Governments policies.

Six long-term political activists have been indicted on charges of protesting U.S. domestic and international policies through "violent and illegal means".

Like other recent political trials in the USA, the Resistance Conspiracy Case, as the case has become known, targets domestic opponents of illegal practices such as the Contra war against Nicaragua and the invasion of Grenada. The investigation of these defendants is linked to the recent illegal FBI investigations of CISPES and the Central American solidarity movement. Like them, it is characterised by massive FBI misconduct and illegality.

The six - Alan Berkman, Tim Blunk, Marilyn Buck, Linda Evans, Susan Rosenberg, and Laura Whitehorn - are charged with being part of a network of groups that claimed responsibility for bombings of government and military buildings in 1983-85, including the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Capitol after the invasion of Grenada. No one was injured in any of these actions. The

government makes no claim to know who actually carried out the bombings. Rather, it wants to convict the defendants by proving that they shared a "common purpose" of resisting illegal U.S. war crimes: "guilt by political association".

The government has already put these defendants through fourteen separate political prosecutions. Five of the defendants are already serving sentences of up to 70 years. The sixth has been held in preventive detention for 2 1/2 years. This April, the trial judge dismissed all charges against three defendants on the grounds of double jeopardy, but the Justice Department has vowed to fight the decision.

The government wants to stage a show trial to have a chilling effect on activists. It uses the guise of security to create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation to make a fair trial impossible. A bullet-proof plexiglass wall in the court-room separates the defendants from their families and supporters. Surveillance cameras in the court-room are trained on defendants and spectators.

An international campaign has been launched for trade unions and labour organisation to protest against the trial. Further information can be obtained from:

Emergency Committee for Political Prisoners  
P.O. Box 28191 Washington, D.C. 20038-8191

There are some growing militant currents in the trade unions that have been fighting for democratic unions, unions that are responsive to and struggling to defend their members against bad contracts.

The TDU (Teamsters for a Democratic Union) is one such example of people who recently have been successful in defeating the leadership of the union in preventing them from imposing a bad contract.

At a recent conference reported in International Viewpoint, Amy Newell, secretary-treasurer of the United Electrical Workers Union stated that: "Only a labor party, a political organisation based on trade unions, has the money, resources, stability and organisation to successfully unite working people."

The aspirations to develop under their own political banner is a historic development.

Cannon, the most outstanding founder and leader of the Socialist Workers Party said in 1954:

"The political realignment, brought about by the appearance of a labor party on the scene, cannot fail to have profound repercussions inside the labor movement. There will be a great change there too. The break of the trade-union movement with capitalist politics will coincide with the rise of the big opposition to the present official leadership. This rank-and-file opposition movement will most likely take shape in the struggle for a labor party, and be identified with it." (Implications of the Labor Party)

For Trotskyists the demand for a labour party always involved the political independence of the working class.

The resurgence of the working class will seek a political expression but this expression would not be tied to a tame leadership, as in the British Labour Party, but would be born in the fire of bitter class struggles.

# THE STALIN-HITLER



PETER MONEY

In 1939, Stalin, by grasping the hand of Hitler, took the world's first workers' state, the USSR, to the edge of the abyss. It was rescued only by the self-sacrificing struggle of the Russian masses who, although suffering over 20 million dead, defended their revolution and defeated Hitler's army.

Today under Gorbachev the Soviet Union is again staring into the chasm. It is facing break-up and the imperialist wolves are sniffing at the door. The Soviet bureaucracy is incapable of defending the Soviet state and is holding it open for them.

In the 1930's only Trotsky analysed the degeneration of the CPSU and called for the overthrow of the bureaucracy in a political revolution. Today that perspective is taking form in the strike movements in the USSR, particularly the miners strike. As that movement confronts its tasks examination of the past will reveal important lessons.

Just before the outbreak of World War II, the Soviet bureaucracy led by Stalin carried out the biggest betrayal of the international working class in its whole history.

Having, through its disastrous and imbecilic Third Period policies of "social fascism" so neutered the largest communist party outside of the USSR, the German Communist Party, that it allowed Hitler to come to power without even a fight; having stifled and physically crushed the Spanish revolution; just when Hitler was preparing to turn his guns and tanks eastward towards Poland and Russia, Stalin, before a shot was fired signed a pact with the Nazi butcher.

The terms of the pact were that eastern Europe was to be divided up between German and Soviet "spheres of influence". The USSR would get Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Bessarabia (part of Rumania); Germany would get Lithuania and Poland was to be divided between them.

Also as part of the deal the Soviet Union would supply Germany with oil and grain, something that was vital to Hitler's war plans, in exchange for manufactured goods. And the final part of the pact was that Ger-

man communists who had escaped Hitler's concentration camps and taken refuge in the Soviet Union would be sent back to Germany in return for Soviet agents.

The result of this spineless and dispicable betrayal are well known. Not only were the workers and peasants of western Poland sacrificed to the fascists to protect the interests of the privileged Soviet bureaucracy with their policies of international diplomacy, but all those to the east including 20 million Russians would have to pay with their lives.

## TROTSKY

Trotsky in an article "The Kremlin's Role in the European Catastrophe" written 17 June, 1940, before the German invasion of Germany, described the Hitler-Stalin pact thus: "The capitulation of France is not a simple military episode. It is part of the catastrophe of Europe. Mankind can no longer live under the regime of imperialism. Hitler is not an accident; he is only the most consistent and the most bestial expression of imperialism, which threatens to crush our whole civilisation."

"But in line with the general causes of the catastrophe inherent in imperialism, it is impermissible to forget the criminal, sinister role played by the Kremlin and the Comintern. Nobody else rendered such support to Hitler as Stalin. Nobody else created such a dangerous situation for the USSR as Stalin."

From the very beginning the pact did the exact opposite of what it was supposed to do - defend the Soviet Union.

Stalin presented the pact as a sign of the Soviet strength that had forced Hitler to negotiate and as a limitation of Nazi aggression. But the reality was that the Soviet Union was always the junior partner in the agreement and it was the Soviet Union that danced to Hitler's tune.

Hitler was intent on world domination and Stalin was desperate to avoid a war. Hitler was advancing by stages. He was only too glad to let his "friends" take control of the Baltic states, Finland and Eastern Poland-in fact he let the USSR have Lithuania although

in the original pact it was to be part of the German "sphere of influence. He let his "friends" have territories to-day only the better to take them for himself tomorrow. In the meantime his "friends" could extract valuable raw materials and use them to nourish his wars elsewhere whilst securing his eastern border.

Even if it was granted that taking the Baltic states, Finland and Eastern Poland gave the USSR strategic advances for any future war with Germany these were of secondary significance. These were not the liberated territories, as Stalin tried to claim, to become bulwarks of soviet democracy in a future fight against fascism. The Red Army was not greeted as a welcoming liberating army by the people of these countries even if some of them lived under semi-fascist and feudal regimes already-something Stalin had never mentioned before the pact. Not often do people welcome freedom brought at the bayonet of an outside force whatever that force, but Stalin had already so destroyed soviet democracy and so strangled the peoples of the USSR, particularly the national minorities, that the the people of Poland, for example, saw the invasion of the Red Army as an act of violence.

This was even more so where the Red Army, utterly demoralised and decapitated by Stalin's purges, found itself bogged down and unable to defeat the smaller Finnish army. If Hitler was having any sleepless nights about invading the Soviet Union the Red Army's failure in Finland must have made him feel much happier.

In fact, within three months of the pact Hitler had ordered the preparation of Operation Babarossa, the invasion of the Soviet Union, which took place in May 1941.

The German army was defeated and the revolution was protected but it was only after millions had suffered under the Nazis. But here again it was in spite of Stalin, not because of him, that the Red Army was eventually victorious in defending the Soviet Union and the consequent loss of life so much the higher. It was only because of the enormous pressure from below and the necessities of actual battle that the Red Army was eventually freed from the control of Stalin's political policemen, the careerist commissars, that had contributed so much to destroy the fighting capability of the army.

But the effects of this crime of Stalin were not limited to eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. The signing of the pact with Hitler created absolute confusion and unparalleled demoralisation in the ranks of the communist parties throughout the world and did untold damage to the prestige of the Soviet Union in

# PACT

the eyes of the people of the whole planet. Stalin was destroying the very bedrock on which the Soviet Union rested.

Communist party members through the world found themselves having to make a complete turn round. From propagandising for years for an "alliance of democracies" and "People's fronts" with the aim of a preventative war against "fascist aggression" they had to campaign for a combination of calls for a "peace conference" coupled with ultra-left denunciation of the war mongering "democratic" governments. When Hitler invaded the Soviet Union they were obliged to make yet another about turn and call for full support for a "democratic" war against fascism. They found themselves driven off the streets by the workers who, not surprisingly, denounced them as only interested in fighting fascism when it was "their" country that was threatened.

In the same article as quoted above Trotsky concluded by stating, again in June 1940: "The agents of the Kremlin begin to speak once more about the alliance of the democracies against the fascist aggressors. It is possible that as the cheated cheater, Stalin will be forced to make a new turn in his foreign politics. But woe to the people if they again trust the dishonest agents of the Kremlin's chief! Stalin helped convert Europe into bloody chaos and took the USSR to the brink of the abyss. The peoples of the USSR now cannot help but feel the greatest anxiety... Only the overthrow of the Moscow totalitarian clique, only the regeneration of Soviet democracy can unleash the forces of the Soviet peoples for the fight against the inevitable and fast approaching blow from imperialist Germany. Hence Soviet patriotism is inseparable from irreconcilable struggle against the Stalinist clique."

What Trotsky said then is true now. The defence of the gains of the Russian revolution and the building of socialism with workers democracy is inseparable from the struggle to overthrow the same Stalinist Bureaucracies from the Soviet Union, China, East Germany, Poland and other Workers' States.

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**THE SOVIET BUREAUCRACY AND THE POLITICAL REVOLUTION**  
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## CHINA

# WORKERS ARE ORGANISING



CELIA JONES

**The Beijing Workers Autonomous Federation (BWF) is still organising activities despite its massive repression after the May events; they meet secretly in considerable danger scribbling appeals on pieces of paper; they wait until twilight to post up their messages.**

This is a summary of an article in Nahan, a new Chinese Magazine produced in Britain and reflecting a wide range of political views, described the emerging independent trade union movement.

The growth of BWF reflects the growing discontent amongst China's 150 million urban workers who have increasingly resorted to industrial action over the past 12 months.

China's biggest port, Tanggu, which is near the major industrial city of Tianjin, was at a virtual standstill for months crippled by a dockers' go-slow.

Reports from Beijing, Qingdao, Shanghai and Shenyang confirm that industrial unrest rose significantly last year in response to massive redundancies. In Shenyang alone, 700 factories sacked 40,000 workers. This is against a background of soaring inflation: 30% in 1989; a foreign debt of \$42 million, and an official 21% decline in real wages in two years (figures according to the American paper Socialist Action.)

The Government set up special economic zones some time ago for the purpose of grafting market economies onto stalinist political discipline. Many of these are foreign owned. Earlier this year the Government announced that these enterprises will have to balance their books or face bankruptcy. The management now have the right to hire and fire at will in order to shed a sixth of the surplus labour employed in their factories. An estimated 15 million will lose their jobs. China has 150 million urban workers and the "Economic Daily" warned earlier this year that by the end of the century there

will be 250 million surplus workers, 200 million of them from China's rural areas.

Rapidly deteriorating rural living standards are forcing hundreds of thousands of unemployed agricultural workers to seek jobs in the cities.

There are moves to push women back into the home and child care and maternity benefits are being attacked. Women are being refused the two hours a day they had to breast feed their babies. Many managers are freely admitting that they prefer to employ male labour. In Zhuzhou Hunan province, 70% of the city's jobless are women, and 80% of the countries unemployed are women.

Rural workers are flooding into the cities and living in appalling conditions. There is a common practice of forced overtime from six to eight hours a day in excess of local trade union conditions. Young rural women are forced to sleep two of three to a bed.

One itinerant woman worker in a foreign owned enterprise was quoted in Nahan, "We work 13 hours a day including forced overtime, but we have never received any overtime pay. The boss does not allow us drinking water during working hours and we are body searched when we leave. We live in unbelievably crowded dormitories - 20 to 30 women squeezed into an iron walled room without toilet facilities."

The complaints from workers about compulsory overtime, low wages, unsafe working conditions and unfair dismissals get no response from the state controlled trade unions.

Demands for an independent trade union are growing with the success of the Beijing Autonomous labour movement. Han Dong Fang, leader of the BWF said: "Workers have finally realised that they cannot trust the party organisations ... Now we will go from strength to strength. The Government cannot crush us."

# BRAZIL: TIME BOMB



BRAZILIAN BANK WORKERS FROM SAO PAULO. DRAWING BY BILL HUNTER

138,000 bank clerks working for Banco do Brazil, which combines the roles of a commercial bank and that of a central bank, have just been awarded a 152% pay rise by the national labour high court. The award, which reflects the strength of sectors of the Brazilian working class, has upset the domestic financial markets.

Stock brokers and bank owners are worried that financial chaos is just round the corner. Inflation was 35% in September, up from 29% the previous month. Conservative banks and financial institutions have abandoned the weekly auctions in which they finance the governments short-term borrowing needs.

Financial analysts fear that if the much forecasted hyper-inflation comes, it will do so all at once. "It is as if you are holding a bomb with a lit fuse", said Daniel Dantas, a director of the Icatu Bank, "we will only know about the explosion when it happens, not before."

**SECOND EDITION**

**NOW OUT**

## *International* **COURIER**

The second issue contains articles on Poland from the Polish Socialist Party (Democratic Revolution) including excerpts from their paper, the Robotnik, and an interview with Josef Plnior.

The International Courier is the journal of our international party, the International Workers League.

It is now being produced in three languages: Spanish, Portugese and English.

For the current issue and back copies write to:

ISL, PO BOX 9, Eccles SO, M30 7FX.

## **NAMIBIA NUCLEAR REACTIONS**

This video shows how international working class links can protect the interests of workers throughout the world.

It is available from  
Open eye 90-92 Whitechapel,  
Liverpool L16EN

Hire charges £7.75 individual, £15.50 organisation.

Cost: £15 unemployed or low payed. £30 employed.

# ZAMORA TO VISIT LONDON

(CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE)

**VIDEO  
EAST  
MEETS  
WEST**

This video features the tour by Joseph Pinior, a leader of the Polish Socialist Party (Democratic Revolution), to Argentina.

The video shows Pinior receiving a mass welcome by Argentine workers organised by the MAS, our trotskyst party in Argentina, now growing by 1000 members every month.

This historic meeting shows that a world alternative for workers, whose fight for socialism is a human need not an idealistic dream, exists; and workers have already started to take action and struggle for their ideas throughout the East and the West.

Trotsky's fight for the Fourth International and socialism with democracy lives on in Poland and Argentina. Argentina is in a revolutionary situation and workers are starting to build their own independent organisations. Even armed forces and the police have currents within them fighting for democratic control of their jobs.

Brazil and other countries in the southern cone are heading in the same direction. Workers are organising in new independent working class parties.

These great developments are shown in the video. The historic meeting of Pinior is the highlight. It makes the video an historic one - the like of which has never been seen in Britain before.

Buy it.

Send £8.00 to the  
Socialist Voice,  
PO Box 9,  
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persecuted by it. As a member of this organisation, Zamora became well known as a defence counsel for the relatives of the two French nuns snatched from their church, the Swedish girl Dagmar Hagelin, and several Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, all cases associated with the notorious Navy Lieutenant Astiz.

Zamora was one of those who denounced the crimes of the Argentine military before the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations at Geneva, and at the Conference on Missing People in Argentina which took place before the National Assembly in Paris.

Through his struggle for human rights he came in contact with a number of people who were fighting against the military dictatorship; among whom was Nahuel Moreno, the most important leader of the PST (Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores - Socialist Workers Party), and which later became part of the MAS (Movimiento al Socialismo - Movement towards Socialism). Zamora was one of the founding members of the MAS.

## BUILDING THE MAS

On 1st July, 1983, the MAS held its first rally. In that year the MAS, through Luis Zamora, centred its presidential campaign on its policy of non-payment of the foreign debt, against the proposals of the rest of the political parties in the country. Owing to the development of the MAS and its role in the struggle against the payment of the foreign debt, Fidel Castro invited Zamora to attend a conference on this subject that took place in Havana in 1985. The Nicaraguan government also invited Zamora on two occasions to express, in person and on Nicaraguan soil, his rejection of American interventionism.

During the years that followed the fall of the dictatorship, Zamora kept up his indefatigable defence of human rights demanding the trial and punishment of the military responsible for the genocide. That is why from the very first day Dr Raul Alfonsin took power, Luis Zamora denounced his policy of giving immunity and freedom to the thousands who had tortured, kidnapped and assassinated political prisoners and trade union and student activists. In September 1984, the Government called a demonstration in the Plaza de Mayo in support of its policy of

forgive and forget. Only the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo and the MAS, headed by Luis Zamora were absent. All the other political parties in the country attended and gave their support. The correctness of those who did not attend was to be proved in the years that followed, when the government, with the support of Peronism, passed the laws of 'Final Stop' and 'Due Obedience' granting full immunity and releasing most of those responsible for the genocide.

## WORKERS' STRUGGLES

However, Zamora is not just a human rights activist. He is also well known among Argentine workers for supporting strikes and demonstrations. He was with the workers of the Ford factory during their 19 days of occupation against a company plan of layoffs. He accompanied the construction workers of Neuquen in a 200 kilometre march and rally against low salaries and bad working conditions. He marched with the teachers fighting for better salaries, and was at hundreds of places where workers struggled against misery. A football team in the mines of Sierra Grande wear the emblem of the MAS on their shirts since June 1988, when Zamora held the biggest political rally that had ever taken place among the miners.

Today Zamora is being sought out by sections of workers who are not only asking what the MAS think but are also asking what they should do.

We want to build support for the Argentine revolution and that means seeking to support all the struggles of the Argentine people for human rights and for decent economic and social conditions.

The MAS wants all the assistance it can get from those that see the importance of supporting the struggle for Socialism with Democracy.

# ZAMORA TO VISIT LONDON

**PUBLIC MEETING  
MONDAY 13TH NOVEMBER  
7.30 p m CONWAY HALL  
RED LION SQUARE**

Those interested in the dramatic developments in Latin America and especially Argentina will want to hear Luis Zamora speak about the explosive situation in Argentina, the struggle against the Amnesty to the generals and the great struggles of workers for food and jobs.

Zamora was elected in May to the Argentine parliament - its first Trotskyist Deputy. He is an Argentine lawyer, well known in Latin America as a fighter for human rights. His party the 'Movement Towards Socialism' (MAS), is now 12,000 strong.

During recent elections Carlos Menem had over seven million people behind him. Many of those are now protesting at the destruction of nationalised industries, schools, hospitals and the rapid growth of misery caused by hyperinflation. The Amnesty to the generals has seen a growth in hatred of a Government that is now sitting with the military, the rich and with Thatcher. Sections of Peronists are now turning towards the MAS for a leadership that has a programme, which fights for the ordinary people and which really cares for human rights.

Zamora and the MAS have been in the forefront, and fighting alongside other groups, in the struggle against the Amnesty which Menem is seeking to give the generals who ruled under the last dictatorship.

One Thursday in October 1977, the Argentine human rights organisations called a demonstration in front of the Congress building in Buenos Aires. The demonstration was against the military dictatorship led by General Videla. This was the first public demonstration against the military. One of those present was Luis Zamora, a lawyer who, some time before, had taken up the case of a Chilean girl who had been detained in Buenos Aires for political reasons.

After successfully defending his first case (he obtained the release of the Chilean girl, who was finally sent to Sweden) he defended more than two hundred cases of people who had been kidnapped by the Armed Forces. He also took up the cases of political prisoners, some of whom had been tried by military courts. He did this at a time when over two hundred lawyers were kidnapped and are still missing today.

In 1979, together with other lawyers, he founded the Centre for the Study of Legal and Social Affairs. This became one of the most important institutions in the country devoted to the investigation of crimes committed by the dictatorship and to the defence of those



(Continued on page 15)